**Please fill in an answer to each question. Keep your answers fairly brief, ideally 2/3 sentences maximum. Please write answers directly into this file where indicated.**

Your name, your age and your home village, town or city (where you grew up):

**Answer:**

Lillian Duffy. I am 64 years old. Born and brought up in Fleetwood, Lancs. Moved to Darwen in 1984

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

**Answer:**

St Barnabas Darwen

Tell us about your family:

**Answer:**

I am a widow with one daughter and one grandson

Your job (or how you keep yourself busy if retired)?!:

**Answer:**

I am retired and am delighted to help with the after school care of my grandson. I walk out on Darwen moors, read both sacred and secular books, often have people in to share meals with me, am involved with youth and children’s work at my home church, preach at least twice a month, help with a lunch club run at my church.

Why did you decide to become a Reader?:

**Answer:**

I had a less than gentle push from a serving Reader

What’s been the best thing about your training to be a Reader?:

**Answer:**

Definitely not the assignments but I have benefitted from the teaching and benefitted even more from meeting lots of new people.

My new role has opened new doors for me, given me a new network of friends and has allowed me to meet a variety of people from different walks of life. We can always learn from others.

What’s the most important thing you have learned so far?:

**Answer:**

That whatever the question there is an answer somewhere in the life and person of Jesus

Can you name the most influential person in your Christian life to date and, briefly, say why?

**Answer:**

Of course Jesus Himself, but also Desmond Tutu who has never afraid to speak the truth as he sees it and is very much a modern day prophet. Also for his amazing work encouraging reconciliation and forgiveness in a very broken South Africa.

What is your hope for your future role as a Reader?:

**Answer:**

I hope that I will always be ready listen when people hurt, to laugh when people laugh, to work hard and to play hard.

Name one thing about you people would be surprised about?:

**Answer:**

That actually I am quite shy and find formal occasions and large gatherings very difficult

What would you say was your most significant personal achievement to date?

**Answer:**

Watching my daughter grow and mature into a responsible, outspoken and caring young woman.

Favourite quote (from the Bible or elsewhere). Also state briefly *why* it is your favourite:

**Answer:**

Desmond Tutu **“**Don’t give up. Don’t be discouraged. I’ve read the ending. We win”

We are constantly told that the Church of God is in decline and it can be difficult sometimes to see where we can help a broken world. Desmond Tutu, the voice of experience, the voice of encouragement who has known all his life that the answer is always God.

Unfulfilled ambition?:

**Answer:**

To be quiet and ladylike – very unlikely!

How do you personally hope to support the ongoing Diocesan Vision 2026 Healthy Churches Transforming Communities at parish level?

**Answer:**

I have been privileged to be the Vision Champion for my Church for the last two years. We have a committed Vision team who meet every month and who share the Vision to be community focused, and to grow in Christ.

We also have a new Vicar in his second year with us who has been very affirming of the work we do and is committed to local community and especially to the children here. We pray together, share our ideas together, laugh together and yes sometimes cry together.

How would you express your own vision for the church?:

**Answer:**

To be led by love, to become a family for anyone and everyone, to laugh and cry together (and not just on Sundays in our church buildings!)

How do you relax?:

**Answer:**

With friends and food. Alone with a good book. Alone on the very beautiful Darwen moorland.